

NOEL CHARGES ENNION WILLIAMS

WASTED MONEY

Republican Launches T

Trade Against Health
Commissioner.

**WILLIAMS READY
WITH FULL REPLY**

**Senate Thrown Into Uproar
Charge of Misappropriation and
Misuse of State Funds in**

**Purchase and Equipment
of Catawba Sanatorium.**

Starting the Senate with the lightning-like unexpectedness of his statement, charges of misapplication and misappropriation of public funds were preferred against State Health Commissioner Ennion G. Williams last night by Senator Noel. It was the upper branch was considering clause of the general appropriation setting apart \$46,000 to the State Board of Health, and a like sum for building and improvements at the Catawba Sanatorium, that this unusual for indictment came.

"I rise to a question of persons

"privilege," said Senator Noel, when a clause mentioned was reached. "Some weeks ago, an editorial appeared in the Roanoke Times, which classed me almost as a murderer, declaring that I wanted to see people and children die without any aid being extended to them by the State. This was a complete lie, and I am glad to imagine in connection with my proposed stand on some of the public health questions, though I could not do anything upon investigation that justified such a charge being made against me."

"Going deeper in the matter, I found out that the Roanoke Times is edited by a relative of the State Commissioner of Health, Dr. Williams.

"I began to investigate the action of the State Public Health Commission, and I charge that he has grossly misappropriated, misapplied and misused the public money appropriated to the uses of his department in charge that in buying the site for Catawba Sanatorium an outrageous

and unwarranted price was paid for it. The site is grossly unsuitable for a penitentiary. It is almost inaccessible, is a hollow, and is a place where consumption ought to be allowed to go.

report made last year by Dr. R. K. F. Williams, the first superintendent of the sanatorium. He left it, decaying, the Senator, and said that the could never be a sanatorium in true name and sense.

"On May 5, 1909, Dr. Robert Williams resigned. Though he served two months, Dr. Williams was \$1,250 by the Board of Health, equivalent of six months' salary in addition to mileage and other expenses. This, he charged, was

Location "Hopeless."
Senator Keezell confessed that the charges were new to him. He had heard no criticism; on the contrary, he had thought that the establish-

of the sanatorium was a long toward a most profitable objection. He stated that he had petition from the inmates as to the management of the sanatorium. Still, he explained, it be that he had heard only one of the matter.

Quoting from the report of Dr. Ernest Williams that the site was "less," and that the patients would be practically confined to a narrow range, Senator Noel proceeded to sustain his allegations with great

termination. In view of the late hour of the hour, he consented that the matter be passed over until to-day at the Senate at once adjourned.

It was apparent in the Senate that the charges were by no means cleared up, and some discussion ensued among the members after the session was over.

Dr. Williams Replies.

When seen last night regarding

charges made against the Health Department by Senator Noel, Dr. H. G. Williams, State Health Commissioner, gave out the following statement:

"My only regret about the charge made by Mr. Noel is that they were not sprung until this late hour. The Assembly has little time to discuss any question. Had such charges been made before the Finance Committee of either House, when the

appropriation for this department under discussion, we would have come to them, inasmuch as they have given us an opportunity to present the work of the department before the public in such a form

"Mr. Noel's chief charge against the department was in connection with the purchase of the present Catawba tuberculosis sanatorium. He de-

that we paid a most unreasonable price for this property, and had shown good judgment in its selection.

ASE \$13,750. In this was included a of 650 acres, of which almost 300 were arable land and bluegrass pastures. The property included also a small young orchard of 1,000 apple trees, a wooded watershed of 300 acres.

land, we secured for \$18,750 about 14 teen buildings. These included 10 of thirty rooms; two cottages of 10 rooms each; two cottages of 12 rooms each; five cottages, with 12 rooms each, and one with two rooms. While some of these buildings were in bad repair, they were used

as 1906 to accommodate 350. Cary Sheppard, of this city, who as architect at Catawba, tells the property we bought could not have been duplicated for less than \$100,000. In other words, in addition

1:15 farm, with all its appurtenances
er au secured buildings which were